(c) the number of such telephone exchanges which are yet to start functioning; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Details of telephone exchanges sanctioned, commissioned and yet to be commissioned by BSNL and MTNL during the last three years are as follows:

| | Sanctioned | Commissioned | Yet to be commissioned |
|---|---|---|---|
| BSNL | 4936 | 5424 | Nil |
| MTNL | 109 | 98 | 11 |

(d) Non-availability of equipment and other infrastructures.

**Completion of Undersea Cable Venture**

1614. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore Telecom Limited jointly agreed to built undersea cable venture which will carry voice and data traffic from India to Singapore with MTNL;

(b) whether under this project India wil be able to move on south East Asia, Middle East Western Europe and U.S.A.; and

(c) if so, by when the project is likely to be completely start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) There is no such agreement between Singapore Telecom and MTNL.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of reply at (a) above.

**Post Offices Under Gaya Head Office in Bihar**

†1615. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

villagers falling under Tetar, Jethian, Airr and Naudiha post offices under Gaya district in regard to connect these post offices with Gaya Head Office in place of Nawada:

(b) whether it is a fact that Nawada being the Head Office, villagers and facing great difficulty,

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard;

(d) by when these post offices will be connected with Gaya Head Office: and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) One representation from the villagers under Airr EDSO has been received to connect this post office with Gaya Head Office in place of Nawada.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

**Extension in local call distance**

1616. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government for local call facility in Rural and Urban Areas;

(b) whether Government are considering to connect local call facility from every village to their respective district Headquarters in the country;

(c) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to increase local call distance upto 500 km. in near future; and

(d) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The present policy envisage local call facility (without STD Code) is allowed:—

(i) Within SDCA

(ii) When Two Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) are adjacent

(iii) When the radial distance between the two Short Distance Charging